

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

March 2014

Dear Principal:

Jazz – it is one of America’s greatest cultural hallmarks. We are pleased to support Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), along with more than 25 distinguished governmental and cultural organizations. Every April, JAM celebrates the vibrant world of jazz and its unique role as an American historic and cultural treasure.

This living, evolving treasure unites the African, European, and Latin American musical traditions, and represents the character of American history. In learning about this art form, young people also learn about shared American values, including cultural diversity, creativity, innovation, discipline, and teamwork.

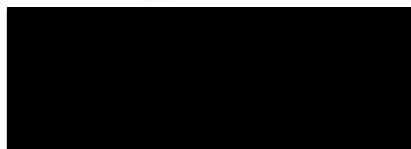
The U.S. Department of Education is proud to support this initiative, launched in 2001 by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History. I encourage all educational institutions to take advantage of JAM to learn more about and enjoy the power of this uniquely American music.

Enclosed are two copies of the 2014 JAM poster. This year’s poster features John Coltrane, an American jazz saxophonist and composer whose recording of the iconic “A Love Supreme” suite celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2014. Coltrane’s likeness was rendered on the enclosed poster by American artist Joseph Holston from his screen print “Jazz” (1990). The library and the music resource room are often the most appropriate locations to display the poster in your school.

More ideas, resources, and activities surrounding the celebration of JAM can be found on the Smithsonian’s website at www.smithsonianjazz.org. This site includes suggested activities for all types of organizations, a state-by-state calendar of upcoming JAM events, oral histories of jazz greats, and a bibliography of children’s literature with jazz themes. Much of this material was developed with middle school students in mind, and we hope it will be of use to you. (Please note that the U.S. Department of Education does not endorse any curriculum or materials mentioned on the website.)

I appreciate all you do for our nation’s children and hope your school will join in this year’s Jazz Appreciation Month celebration.

Sincerely,



Nadya Chinoy Dabby
Acting Assistant Deputy Secretary

Enclosures

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The Department of Education’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.